

REMARKS

Claims 4, 5, 7, 8 and 27 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 4, 7 and 27 are amended. No new matter is added.

Applicant appreciates the courtesies extended to Applicant's representative during the March 22 and April 8 telephone interviews. The substance of the discussions held are incorporated into the amendments and the following remarks, and constitute Applicant's record of the interview.

As discussed in the April 8 telephone interview, the recesses 18, defining the grating columns 16 located on the IR window 10 do not constitute step portion. The step portion is defined as that area of the IR window which is located directly above seal 8.

I. The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 4, 5, 7, 8 and 27 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Applicants Admitted Prior Art (APA) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,701,008 to Ray et al. and U.S. Patent No. 5,764,323 to Fukuda. This rejection is respectfully traversed.


Ray does not disclose forming a sealing material of photo curing resin, the width of the step portion being greater than a maximum width of the sealing material, as in amended claims 4, 7 and 27, and as discussed in the April 8 telephone interview. Instead, Fig. 4 of Ray discloses that the maximum width of the sealing material 8 is less than the width of the step portion.

II. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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